

# SAFETY BULLETIN

## SB02-034 TORNADO SAFETY

When a tornado is spotted, the time for life or death decisions is immediate. Lightning, heavy rain and/or hail frequently accompany or follow tornadoes. If the rain is extremely heavy or if the funnel forms at night, warning signs are reduced to a roaring noise, similar to a train or aircraft. Tornadoes can strike during any season and in any place. Most occur during the mid-afternoon and early evenings from April to October. Tornadoes strike viciously with an extreme force, high winds and very low pressure. They often touch ground for less than 20 minutes; however, they may touch down several times in different areas.

### TORNADO WEATHER WARNINGS

#### Tornado Watch:

- ⚡ A tornado watch indicates that weather conditions may cause tornadoes to develop in an area. A watch does not mean that a tornado has been sighted. The watch may cover time periods of up to eight hours. People within a 200 or 300 mile area should be prepared for possible tornadoes. Residents of the designated area need not seek shelter or disrupt their normal routine during the tornado watch, but they should tune in to radio or TV and be alert for threatening weather conditions.

#### Tornado Warning:

- ⚡ Local weather bureau offices issue tornado warnings when a tornado funnel has actually been sighted or indicated by radar. The warning may cover short periods of time (5 to 30 minutes) and specific areas (10 to 200 square miles). The warning will indicate where the tornado was detected and the area through which it is expected to move. You should seek immediate shelter if you are in the expected path of the storm.

### BE PREPARED

Choose emergency areas that will provide shelter for every place you may be located during a tornado and conduct practice drills. Hold tornado drills at home, school and the office.

- ⚡ Seek the lowest level of the building such as a basement.
- ⚡ If a basement is not available, choose an inner hallway or inner room away from the windows. Put as many walls between you and the outside as possible.
- ⚡ Get under something sturdy (i.e. workbench, heavy table or desk).
- ⚡ Avoid structures with wide, free-span roofs (i.e. auditorium, cafeteria, or hanger).
- ⚡ Evacuate mobile homes.
- ⚡ Have emergency equipment and supplies.
  - ✓ Lantern or powerful flashlight w/batteries.
  - ✓ Radio w/batteries.
  - ✓ Water and food.
  - ✓ Blankets.
  - ✓ Useful tools such as a crowbar, pick, shovel, or hammer could come in handy in case you need to clear an escape route through debris.

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